(b) if so, what are the total unfinished project in various States;

(c) whether Government have allowed them to take help from the private entrepreneurs to complete these projects; and

(d) if so, by what time the private entrepreneurs will provide help and assistance to the States for completion of the unfinished irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) A High Level Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Water Resources to examine the feasibility of private sector participation in irrigation and multipurpose projects which recommended introducing the concept on a pilot basis in respect of certain projects which did not have inter-State problems or security issues. During IXth Plan, three States viz Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra resorted to market borrowing amounting to about Rs. 2000.00 crore. Rs. 3000.00 crore and Rs. 8000.00 crore respectively. But market borrowing for irrigation sector is found to be unattractive because of long gestation period of the projects which in turn creates difficulty in debt servicing. It has, therefore, been presumed in the report of the Working Group on major and medium irrigation programme for Xth Five Year Plan that funding in irrigation sector is to be mainly from Government sources during Xth Plan.

(b) There are 490 Major, Medium and Extention, Renovation & Modernisation (ERM) Irrigation Projects (159 Major, 242 Medium and 89 ERM Projects) which are ongoing in the various States.

Utilization of Rivers Water

1502. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of the river water in India remains unutilized while China like other advanced countries is utilising the full potential of its rivers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a time has come when we must take up mega-multi-purpose water resources projects at an accelerated pace in order to solve our multi-farious problems; and

(c) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The annual average flow in the river systems of the country is 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). Owing to the topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1122 BCM of which surface water is 690 BCM and annual replenishable ground water resources is 432 BCM. Presently, 605 BCM is being utilised from surface and ground water resources.

(b) and (c) Till now, total live storage of 177 BCM has been created. Dams under construction/consideration will create an additional live storage capacity of 207 BCM. For speedy completion of ongoing water resources projects, the Central Government has launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), which add to the country's developed water potential. In addition, the Central Government, through non-conventional measures like inter-basin transfer, has formulated the National Perspective Plan for water resources development.

Cauvery River Authority

1503. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) when the Cauvery River Authority was created;

(b) the number of sittings held by this Authority year-wise, so far;

(c) the decision taken by this Authority meeting-wise; and

(d) the number of the decisions taken by the Authority which have been implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Cauvery River Authority (CRA) was constituted on 11th August, 1998 to give effects to the implementation of interim order dated 25th June, 1991 of the Cauvery Water Disputes tribunal (CWDT) and all its related subsequent orders.

(b) The Authority has held one meeting each in the years 1998, 2000, 2001 and two meetings in the year 2002.

(c) A statement enclosed. *(See below)*

(d) Decisions regarding framing of rules of Conduct of Business and amendment thereto have been implemented in full. Efforts have been made to implement other decisions. However, some States have represented to CRA to review its earlier decisions.